

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A hydrogen storage material in the form of a film comprising a first region composed primarily of an amorphous carbon containing from 0.02 to 30 atomic % of at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of [[Ti,]] Zr, Hf and Y, and a second region that extends in a thickness direction of the film composed primarily of an amorphous carbon, the second region having a density from 10 to 40% lower than that of the first region.

2. (Currently amended) A hydrogen storage material in the form of a film containing voids, wherein the film is of an amorphous carbon containing at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of [[Ti,]] Zr, Hf and Y.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of hydrogen storage materials which comprises providing a source of carbon containing pieces of at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of [[Ti,]] Zr, Hf and Y, and forming a film composed of an amorphous carbon containing said metal element on the surface of a base material at a temperature of 773 K or less according to a gas phase synthesis.

6. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of hydrogen storage materials which comprises providing a source of carbon containing pieces of at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of [[Ti,]] Zr, Hf and Y, and forming a film composed of an amorphous carbon containing said metal element on the surface of a base material under a process gas pressure of 1.33322 Pa or more according to a sputtering process.

7. (Previously presented) The hydrogen storage material of claim 2 wherein the content of the metal element is from 0.02 to 30 atomic %.

8. (Previously presented) The hydrogen storage material of claim 2 wherein the void extends to a thickness direction of the film.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The hydrogen storage material of claim 7 wherein the void extends in a thickness direction of the film.

11. (Previously presented) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1 wherein the average value of the densities of the first and the second region is from 1.4 to 2.2 g/cc³ in a metal element free-state.

12. (New) The hydrogen storage material of claim 1 wherein the at least one metal element is Y.

13. (New) The hydrogen storage material of claim 2 wherein the at least one metal element is Y.